

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

[Document I.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
JANUARY 28, 1874.

Referred to the Committee on Education and 500 copies
ordered to be printed.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,
Chief Clerk.

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF

St. John's College,

ANNAPOLIS, MD.,

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.

January 28th, 1874.

By James M. Garnett, Principal.

ANNAPOULIS:

S. S. MILLS & L. F. COLTON,
Printers to the House of Delegates

1874.

REPORT.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,
Annapolis, Md., January 28, 1874.

*To the Hon. JESSE K. HINES,
Speaker of the House of Delegates of Maryland:*

SIR:—In accordance with custom, I have the honor respectfully to submit, through you, to the General Assembly of the State, my Report of the operations of ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE for the past two years, and of its present condition. The College was re-organized, after a suspension of five years, in 1866, and opened as a Preparatory School in September of that year. The following session a Freshman Class was formed, and one year's studies were gradually added to the course, so that when I entered upon my duties here in October, 1870, I found the four Collegiate classes fully organized, and the College in complete working order, and in July, 1871, the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon the graduates for the first time in ten years. The former relations of the College to the State, and the particulars connected with its re-organization may be found in a "Response of the Visitors and Governors to an order of the House," dated March 4th, 1867, [House Document H. H.] and in the Report of my predecessor, dated February 24th, 1868, [House Document V.] The condition of the College during the two sessions previous to 1872, and its wants at that time, are set forth in detail in my Report to the General Assembly of that year, dated January 26th, 1872, [House Document L.]

NUMBER OF STUDENTS.

The number of students in attendance for the past three, and present sessions, has varied within small limits, there

having been present during the session of 1870-'71, sixty-two in the Collegiate, and seventy-six in the Preparatory Department; during 1871-'72, sixty-one in the Collegiate, and fifty-nine in the Preparatory Department; during 1872-'73, sixty-eight in the Collegiate, and seventy-two in the Preparatory Department; and during the present session, seventy-one in the Collegiate, and fifty-seven in the Preparatory Department. The Collegiate students are distributed as follows: eleven Seniors, twelve Juniors, fifteen Sophomores, and thirty-three Freshmen. Under the system of tuition scholarships established by the Board of Visitors and Governors, of the whole number of students in attendance (138) in 1870-'71, eighty-one were educated free of charge for tuition; of the number (120) in 1871-'72, seventy-three were so educated; of the number (140) in 1872-'73, ninety-eight; and of the number in attendance so far during the present session (128), eighty-four are received free of charge for tuition.

STUDENTS HOLDING SENATORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Of the ninety-eight free tuition students attending in 1872-'73, and of the eighty-four in attendance during the present session, fifty are boarded free under the Act of 1872, (chapter 393), providing for furnishing board, &c., to two students from each Senatorial District in the State, on condition that they shall teach school within the State for two years after leaving College. As Garrett county has been formed since this Act was passed, I would call the attention of your Honorable Body to the need of an additional appropriation of \$400, in order to furnish board, &c., to two students from that county. Of the two students originally appointed from Allegany county, and now present, one is a resident of Garrett, and the other of Allegany county. It will thus be seen that every county in the State, and every district of Baltimore City, is represented in the College, and so far from the College being maintained for the benefit of Annapolis, as is sometimes charged, for four years past the number of students from Annapolis has not amounted to more than one-fifth of the whole number in attendance. The Act of 1872, (chapter 393), however, needs amendment, in that it

does not provide for any remuneration to the State from free students dismissed or withdrawn during the term for which appointed. A few such cases have occurred, and I would respectfully recommend that students so dismissed or withdrawn, be required to pay for board and tuition during the time they were in attendance at the College, or forfeit a suitable proportion of the bond. Those who were appointed by the Boards of School Commissioners under this Act, were very deficient in preparation, so that but nineteen entered the Collegiate Department, and the majority of these were in the Preparatory Department in some studies. During the present session, thirty-eight of the fifty have been classified as Collegiate students, although some of these are still in the Preparatory Department in some studies. It will be readily seen, then, that only a minority of these students can graduate in the four years for which appointed, but all should at least complete the studies of the Freshman year, and they would then be better qualified to teach than the majority of teachers in the Public Schools, so that while the full benefit contemplated is not derived, owing to this deficient preparation, much benefit is conferred, and many students are furnished with a better education than they could have obtained without the aid of the State.

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

This experience also shows the necessity for the continuance of the Preparatory Department of the College, so long as the requisite *Public High Schools* are not established in the various counties. This is now the crying want of the Public School system of the State. It has been remedied in some of the counties of the State by the conversion of the existing Academies, which are supported in part by the academic fund, into such High Schools, the requisite agreement having been made between the Trustees of the Academies and the Boards of School Commissioners. Further provision is, however, needed for the establishment and support of such High Schools, tuition in which need not be altogether free, and from the graduates of the High Schools might be taken the incumbents of the free scholarships in ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE who would here be prepared as teachers for these High Schools, to train others to take the places vacated by them.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE AS THE MALE NORMAL SCHOOL OF THE STATE.

This brings me to the recommendation of the President of the State Board of Education and Principal of the State Normal School, that that school "should be open to women exclusively," and, as a corollary to what is said of ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, that this College "should become the Normal School for men." The action of the General Assembly of 1872 was a step in this direction, and from the advantages already existing here in respect to buildings, library and apparatus, a Faculty of Instructors, and a large body of students, in other words, a completely organized College, it is certain that this could be effected at far less expense than the organization of a separate Normal School for males. It would be necessary to develop the College in this direction, that is, as a Normal School, and this could be done without interfering with its regular academic course, and at very little additional expense to the State. It would then, also, be brought forward more prominently as the head of the educational system of the State, the position which it is already gradually assuming. As such a head, it would occupy a similar position to that at present held by the University of Michigan in relation to the Public School system of that State, with this important difference, that *it* is supported by a specific tax on the ratable property of the State, and the deficiencies in its revenue are supplied by the Legislature. The Report of the President of that University for 1873, states that the Legislature voted \$13,000 to meet the deficit in the account of the year previous, \$25,000, to complete one of the buildings, and the above-mentioned tax, which will now yield \$31,500, and "at the next appraisal of property in 1876, will furnish a handsome increase." Tuition in this University is free to all, and did ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE receive a sufficient endowment to justify it, I would most heartily recommend that a similar course be adopted here, but even the small amount received from tuition fees is needed in order to meet the current expenses of the College.

Literary Institutions are not, and cannot be, self-sustaining, and even the wealthiest of them, Harvard University for example, frequently complain of deficiencies in revenue.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION, &c.

The Course of Instruction in the College, and its distribution throughout the different classes, will be found detailed at length in the accompanying catalogue, which I have the honor to transmit herewith. The number of graduates since the re-organization of the College, is twenty-two—six in 1871, eight in 1872, and eight in 1873; the present graduating class numbers eleven. In addition to these, many young men have left the College each year, and entered upon their occupations for life, and its young Alumni may now be found in different branches of business, and in the learned professions. It is a fallacy to judge a College by the number of its graduates alone, for a far larger number, who have received only a partial collegiate education, leave College each year, and begin their business for life.

PRESENT WANTS OF THE COLLEGE.

It is, perhaps, needless to enlarge upon the wants of the College, unless there is, at least, a reasonable prospect of having them supplied; but I deem it my duty to make as full a statement of the affairs of the College as possible, and trust to the liberality of your Honorable Body to supply the most pressing wants. The *first, and most urgent*, need of the College, is to be relieved of its present financial embarrassments. A statement, furnished by the Treasurer of the College, of the outstanding debt, and of the expenses of the College for 1872-'73, is given in the Appendix to this Report. It is impossible for an Institution to prosper burdened with debt, and with no prospect of its extinguishment without Legislative assistance, a debt which, in the effort to pay it, causes an annual drain upon the salaries of the Faculty. For each of the past two years there has been a deficiency of over \$2,000 in the salaries of the Faculty, and the same deficiency will exist during the present year, so that by the close of the session there will be a deficiency of over \$6,000 in the salaries of the Faculty for three years past. There is no prospect of any improvement in this respect without a large increase in the number of students who pay for tuition, and there is not much prospect of that, so long as, under the general State law, such a large number of tuition scholarships exists.

With a sufficient endowment, it were better that tuition should be free to all, but the College has no private endowment, and is entirely dependent upon the State annuity and the tuition fees, which last have not exceeded the sum of \$3,000 a year for three years past.

With regard to the contraction of the debt, the larger portion, (\$11,590,) was borrowed in 1866, to put the College in order after the close of the late war, and to meet the necessary expenses before the State annuity, received in 1868, became available. On this, however, \$2,000 were paid during the past year. About \$7,500 are due to the deficiency between the receipts and expenditures of the boarding department for the five years from October, 1867, to October, 1872. In addition to this, is the deficiency of over \$1,000 in the salaries of the Faculty for the past two years, as above stated, making a total deficit of over \$21,000. During the past session the receipts were about sufficient to meet the expenditures, with the exception of the deficiency in the salaries, which equalled the amount of debt liquidated. Were the College relieved from this burden of debt, it could maintain itself in its present condition on the appropriation now received from the State, which should be made *permanent*, for, unless renewed from time to time, the College must necessarily be closed. Without private endowment, it must be supported by the State, if supported at all. But no College can be satisfied to stand still. In this day of progress it must go forward with the rest, or be left behind in the race. In the working-staff of the Faculty, the most urgent need is a *Professor of Analytical and Applied Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology*, who should instruct in the applications of Chemistry to the arts, and, under the direction of your Honorable Body make, a geological survey of the State. Other and newer States have gone far ahead of Maryland in this respect, and with the vast amount of mineral wealth in the western part of the State, instruction in those branches relating to its development should no longer be neglected in the leading College of the State. With our present means it is impossible to add this Professorship, but it is very much needed to increase the thoroughness of the Scientific Department.

In respect to *buildings*, the College needs a larger Public Hall, and suitable rooms for Philosophical and Chemical Lecture-rooms, Library and Laboratory. The present central building (McDowell Hall) might, at no very great expense, be enlarged so as to supply these wants. Without additional building it is not possible to form a thoroughly efficient Laboratory, and a suitable room for Library and Reading-room is greatly needed, the present one being too small for the growing Library and too damp for the preservation of the books. Through the liberality of the last Legislature in appropriating \$5,000 to the Library and apparatus, more than twelve hundred volumes have been added to the Library, and an excellent beginning of a good Library made; but from the very few works of value which the Library possessed before, and the importance of keeping pace with the progress of knowledge in all departments, it should have a permanent annual appropriation. Furnishing text-books free to those holding free scholarships is a great drain upon the funds of the College—sometimes amounting to \$1,000 per annum. Were the College relieved from this burden, and this amount appropriated to the Library, it would be expended to much greater advantage. Text-books are furnished under the general Public School law, but even the Primary Schools are not required to furnish books free, and I respectfully recommend that the College be relieved from it. The annual cost to each pupil would not average more than ten dollars. A beginning has also been made of additions to the chemical and philosophical apparatus, under the same appropriation, and steps taken to make still further additions. Other wants of the College might be enumerated, but I have only mentioned those which I regard as most pressing.

RELATIONS OF THE COLLEGE TO THE STATE.

The difficulty which the College has labored under for years has been the lack of interest taken in it by the Legislature, and consequently by the people of the State, and whatever donation it has received, has only been after great personal effort on the part of the friends of the College. The College has not taken hold upon the affections of the people,

and had sufficient reputation to command support on the part of the Legislature and people as an imperative duty, and to be regarded as a necessary, an integral part of the educational system of the State. That the College is doing good work and has claims to be so regarded, I do not think any one will deny who will take the trouble to look into the matter and see what has been done during the past seven years, notwithstanding the difficulties under which the College has labored. Some have regarded it as a private Institution, which was a pensioner on the bounty of the State, and they were therefore opposed to its support by the State. Few words are needed to confute this view. Though established in part by subscription, it was originally endowed by the State with nearly \$5,000 per annum, fully equal then to \$15,000 now, which was intended to be perpetual—but I do not wish to go into the unfortunate history of that endowment. Its character as a State Institution was made more prominent by the addition to its governing body of the eleven highest officers in the State. Its more recent State endowment has enabled it to attain its present position, and is necessary to enable it to preserve it, and, to quote from the recent message of the Governor of the State, “it must be as much a duty to sustain these institutions of learning, which teach the higher branches of education, as it is to support the common schools of the State.” In fact, education is *one* from Primary School to College, and a complete State system should make provision for each gradation. In the words of one the leading educators of the day, President White, of Cornell University, (in his recent address before the American Public Health Association) :

“I trust the time will come when provision will be made just as thoroughly for advanced instruction as for primary and common school instruction, when all will be connected together ; when the present illogical separation that exists, under which primary and common school instruction is provided for by the State, and advanced education is left very inadequately provided by various religious denominations, will be done away with.”

But the question should not be between five, ten or twenty

thousand dollars, more or less, but between sustaining a first-rate College by the State, or having none at all. I most earnestly invite the attention of your Honorable Body to the condition of ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, and solicit your interest in it. I would specially request that a Committee be appointed to visit the College, to investigate its affairs, examine its methods and working, consult with its Visitors and Governors and its Faculty, and make such recommendations with regard to it as may seem to them necessary.

RECAPITULATION.

In conclusion, I would briefly recapitulate the principal points brought forward in the above Report: 1. Appropriation of \$400 to board two students from Garrett county, and amendment of Act of 1872, (ch. 393), so as to provide for remuneration to the State from appointees dismissed or withdrawn before the expiration of their term. 2. Importance of the establishment of Public High Schools in the State. 3. Advisability of constituting ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE the Male Normal School for the State. 4. Relief of the College from its debt, its most urgent present need. 5. Means to establish a Professorship of Analytical and Applied Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology. 6. Extension of central building to enlarge Public Hall and secure suitable rooms for Philosophical and Chemical Lecture-rooms, Library and Reading-room, and Laboratory; and permanent provision for the Library.

I have thus endeavored, as briefly as possible, to set forth the condition and the most pressing wants of ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE and the importance of developing it as a necessary part of the educational system of the State. With a first-class College sustained by the State here at the seat of government, I cannot doubt that, in the course of a few years, the attention of the people would be directed to the College, their interest in it aroused, and they would take pride in maintaining it, and thus lessen the annual drain of thousands of dollars, which go to sustaining the Schools and Colleges of other States.

The amount annually expended by Marylanders for the education of their children outside of the State, would alone be sufficient to handsomely endow this College. It is not reasonable to expect this to cease until they can be convinced

that a College is permanently established within the State, in every way worthy of their support. That ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE has claims to this support, and with more interest in its welfare on the part of your Honorable Body, can soon be made in every way worthy of it, cannot be denied by any who will inform themselves of the work annually done by it. The regular semi-annual written examinations on the work of the first term of the present session will soon commence, and it will give me pleasure to submit the papers to any Committee which your Honorable Body may be pleased to appoint, that they may see and judge for themselves of the character of the work done in the several departments of study, and of the system pursued in training the students of the different classes.

Finally, in behalf of the Visitors and Governors and the Faculty of the College, I would respectfully extend to your Honorable Body an invitation to visit the College, inspect its buildings and grounds, and examine the method of instruction pursued, and would again recommend the appointment of a Committee to examine and report upon the condition of the College.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES M. GARNETT,

Principal.

APPENDIX.

Statement of Outstanding Debt of St. John's College, and of Receipts and Expenditures during the Session of 1872-'73, made by the Treasurer of the College.

Amount of College debt prior to October 1st, 1872 :	
Debt due Farmers' National Bank.....	\$11,500 00
" " W. H. Thompson.....	775 00
" " on account of College Commons	5,265 00
Total amount of debt.....	\$17,540 00
Cash since paid Farmers' National Bank.....	2,000 00
Outstanding debt.....	\$15,540 00

NOTE BY PRINCIPAL.—If to this the deficiency in Professors' salaries for two years past (\$4,400), not included by the Treasurer as a debt, be added, the total deficit will amount to \$19,940.00. (Page 8 to be corrected as above).

Balance of Cash at Opening of the College Session and Receipts for Session of 1872-'73.

1872.

Oct. 1st. Cash lately received on account of State's appropriation for library and apparatus	\$ 5,000 00
State's annuity under the Resolutions of 1811 and 1832.....	3,000 00
Annual appropriation under the Act of 1872, chapter 393, for several purposes.....	12,000 00
Annual appropriation for board of State scholars by Act of 1872, chapter 393.	10,000 00
Collections for board during the year, from others than State scholars.....	8,660 62

Collections for tuition for the College year.....	\$ 3,013 84
Collections for library during the Col- lege year.....	556 80
Donations for library during the College year from Classes of 1871 and 1872....	215 00
Collections for pew-rents, damages, gym- nasium, &c.....	762 35
	<hr/>
	\$43,208 61
	<hr/>

Disbursements for Session of 1872-'73.

Board of students residing in the College build- ings.....	\$16,794 55
Faculty of the College.....	11,168 50
Officers and employees.....	1,350 00
Farmers' National Bank, for reduction of debt and payment of interest.....	2,865 33
Insurance.....	201 00
Library and apparatus.....	2,500 00
Text-books.....	1,200 00
Fuel, gas and water bills.....	650 00
Gymnasium, pew-rents, &c.....	762 35
Improvements, repairs and incidental expenses.	2,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$39,991 73
	<hr/>
Balance with receipts.....	\$43,208 61
Less disbursements.....	39,991 73
	<hr/>
Balance on hand.....	\$ 3,216 88
	<hr/>

The balance above belongs to the fund for library and apparatus, and library proper.

